



The Newsletter of the High Country, Tolland Massachusetts

The Tolland Tattler

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MARCH 2006

“It was a Great Time” especially in winter, with THE OLD TOLLAND HORSE STAGE

Reprinted from the August 6, 1932 edition of the Granville Center News

“It was a great time”, Mr. August Beckman told the G.C.N., of the days when he drove the Stage from Granville Center to West Granville and Tolland, thirty-five years ago. His time was three-quarters of an hour from the Center to West Granville when the roads were in top shape.

The government in those days was very strict. He had to begin his route at the Center at four o'clock, with only 7 minutes leeway before and after. He was provided with first class horses, which took him to Tolland by six o'clock - no more, no less. He spent the night at Tolland, returning at six o'clock in the morning.

The manner of his acquiring the route was that one day a lady who had recommend him brought with her a contract and a man in uniform who presented him with the papers. He signed, and the next day, “I hitched up and headed for Tolland, not even knowing where to sleep when I got there. A Mr. Shelton from West Springfield let me have a little house if I paid the taxes. It had one room, the rest all fell in, and no windows”.

Winter in those days was something. “You couldn't tell whether you were in the road or the mowing; once the hoses fell down seventeen feet in the snow. The neighbors had to come and get me out, and I walked into town at ten o'clock at night with the mail under my arm.

“In Tolland the winters are cold - nothing like down here. The people have to sleep in bed with their clothes on. One morning I put the chair on the stove and sat there until I was warm.”

Only once did Mr. Beckman complain to the government, when he declared it was impossible to keep his schedule during the months of snow. The government sent a heavy sleigh drawn by oxen through the route to make ruts. This, however, was not of much help to the horses who had to go forward by leaps as they lifted their feet from the drifts.

Mr. Beckman brought out the preachers for the Tolland Church. Once he brought out a lawyer who, he says, “was afraid for this place. He said he wanted to go back that night, but he had to sleep at my house. I let him sleep in my comfortable bed, while I slept on the bench. That night he says ‘be sure you don't forget me!’ I didn't, and took him back safely the next morning”.

Mr. Beckman still lives in his house on the West Granville Road. It is one of the oldest homes in the town and contains a colonial cupboard for which he has been offered \$175. from the Eastern States Exposition.

Kindergarten Registration for Southwick and Tolland Children

Registration for Kindergarten in the Southwick-Tolland Regional School District for the 2006-2007 school year will be held at the Woodland Elementary School, 80 Powder Mill Road on Thursday, May 4th and Friday, May 5th. In order to be eligible for Kindergarten, a child must be five years old by September 1, 2006. As required by Special Education Law, Chapter 766, screenings will be conducted in the areas of hearing, vision, speech/language, and cognitive and motor skills. All parents having an eligible child should call the Woodland School Office at 569-6598 beginning on Monday, March 27th, 2006 for an appointment.

PLEASE CALL 569-6598 - beginning on March 27, 2006 for an appointment.

Granville/Tolland Citizens' Scholarship Foundation

The Granville-Tolland Citizen's Scholarship Foundation will conduct its 2006 Phonathon Sunday, March 19 through Wednesday, March 22 from 6 to 9 pm. Last year, with your generous contributions, we raised over \$10,500.00. MANY local college students have or will receive a scholarship to help with college funding. All donations received from this event will go toward our 2006-2007 scholarships. Please contact Nina Stromgren at 357-6153 if you have any Phonathon questions or if you are a student interested in volunteering your time.

Thank you in advance for making the 2006 Phonathon a success!

Scholarship applications are now available on our website at www.tolland-ma.gov, the STRHS guidance office, the Granville Village School and the Granville and Tolland Public Libraries. Applications must be completed and postmarked by May 1, 2006 to be considered. Questions regarding applications, please contact Diane Lafrance at 357-6619 or Kris LeFebvre at 357-9044.

St Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner Benefit New Boston Congregational Church

Saturday March 11, 2006 from 5-7 pm
Fire Station 2 - Route 57, Sandisfield, MA

Potatoes, Carrots, Bread, Assorted Desserts, Beverages

Takeouts Available

\$10. Adults - \$5. under 12

Tickets Available at Door



Charlotte Clark, the towns oldest resident, celebrated her 99th birthday on January 31. She spent a very festive day at home with many visitors, phone calls and birthday cards throughout the day. An impromptu party got going after supper with a few town residents, complete with cake and balloons! She was all smiles.

Charlotte has lived in Tolland for most of her 99 years, first moving here when she was just 20 years old. She has watched our town grow and change over the years and certainly has a lot of stories that are full of its history.

There is nothing better than settling into a chair next to her and listening to one of her stories. As her face grows animated and her lively sense of humor shines through, she will remember it to the last detail, unfolding a bit of the past. She is a treasure!

Jo Ann Carl



Tolland Public Library

It is time for sapping, seed starting and noticing that the sun is setting just a bit later than before. The Tolland Public Library would like to announce, in celebration of getting outside again, a photographic exhibit entitled *The Nature of Tolland*. All residents, all ages, of Tolland are invited to enter photographs centering on the subject of the nature (scenic, animal, people, historical) of Tolland. All items should be matted or framed in whatever fashion you deem fit and should be submitted at the Library no later than May 15th. The exhibition will open on June 3rd and run through out the summer. I hope there will be many entries to do justice to the beauty of our small town. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Kelmelis at the Library at 258-4201 or at tolland@cwmar.org.

A new book that at the Library which I highly recommend is *Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do* by Michael J. Tougas. It is the story of a pilot boat sent out in the blizzard of 1978 to rescue a tanker. It is not the Perfect Storm. It is more. The book is well written, impeccably researched, and riveting to read. Also on display with this book are various other sea faring tales, novels and movies.

The other display at the Library is an audio-visual on the sound of Motown. The prominent feature is the movie *Standing in the Shadow of Motown*. If you have any fondness for the Motown sound you need to see this movie. You may remember Marvin Gaye, The Supremes, Smokey Robinson and others but do you know who backed them up? Take out this movie a relive some of the best music ever. Also on display are Michael McDonald's Motown CDs and an anthology of the Supremes.

Hope to see you at the Library soon. By the way, it has been terrific to see some of Tolland youngest residents enjoying their weekly visits. You all make for nice company.

Farmington River Watershed Awarded Funding for 5-Year Watershed Action Plan

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) is currently working in the five Massachusetts communities in the Farmington River Watershed to develop a Five-Year Watershed Action Plan. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) has granted funding to conduct this project which provides a unique opportunity for watershed communities to cooperatively set a course for the future of the Farmington River Watershed.

BRPC has partnered with the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), a non-profit organization which has been conducting research, education, and advocacy programs at the community level to protect natural resources in the Watershed since 1953. The plan will bring together existing studies, plans, maps, and reports that are related to environmental planning, water quality, water quantity, water use and conservation, open space, recreational benefits, habitat, non-point source pollution and storm water runoff. The plan will include an inventory of the issues and priorities which impact the environmental health of the Farmington River Watershed. Once the inventory is compiled, BRPC will define goals, objectives, strategies, and identify potential solutions for these issues and problems. The recommendations of the 5-Year Action Plan will receive priority for funding from state grant programs and other funding sources.

The Watershed Action Plan will reflect local priorities and regional consensus on issues that cross municipal and state boundaries. The residents within the Farmington River Watershed are encouraged to be actively involved in this planning process. BRPC and FRWA will actively solicit information and input from local officials and citizens, and environmental advocates. As a first step, BRPC has formed the Farmington River Watershed Advisory Committee. The committee is formed of representatives from the watershed communities, environmental organizations, government officials and other key stakeholders.

The Watershed Advisory Committee will play a critical role in providing local knowledge and perspective to the planning process, and will provide a review role for draft Action Plan documents. The advisory committee will be meeting for the first time on Wednesday, February 15th at 6PM in the Becket Town Hall. All meetings of the Advisory Committee will be open to the public, and will be posted on the website calendars of the BRPC (www.berkshireplanning.org) and FRWA (www.frwa.org).

For more information, please contact Melissa Jette, Senior Planner/Project Manager at BRPC (413) 442-1521 ext. 22.

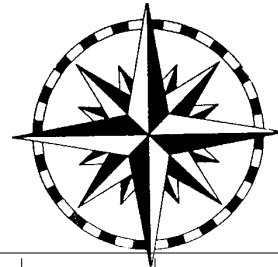
Tolland COA

The Tolland Council on Aging will hold a spring Foot Clinic on Thursday, March 23, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Tolland Town Hall. There is room for ten people to have their feet evaluated by Foot Nurse, Joan Angelo, of Lee. Tolland elders will be given first preference but, if room is available, elders from surrounding towns may also attend.

While the foot screenings are free, if persons wish to include a pedicure as well, they are asked to please make a special donation because the grant to the COA that funds the clinic does not cover services, only screenings. A home visit in Tolland can also be arranged for those who cannot come to the clinic.

Please call Gert McKay, Tolland COA Chairperson, at 413-258-3336, to schedule an appointment with the foot nurse.

Tolland Weather



Elevation: 1500 feet above sea level

For the period: January 21 to February 19, 2006

High Country weather prepared by Steve Strinie

	MAX.	DATE	TIME	MIN.	DATE	TIME
TEMPERATURE	59	Feb 16	3pm	2	Feb 18	11pm
HUMIDITY	100% several times			not available		
DEWPOINT	47	Feb 3	1pm	-6	Feb 18	4pm
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE	30.49	Feb 15	3am	29.21	Feb 5	6am
WIND SPEED/DIRECTION	50 mphNW	Feb 17	3pm			
WIND CHILL				-30	Feb 18	11pm
TOTAL RAINFALL	2.67					
TOTAL SNOWFALL	17 in.					

Comments: Missed a big snowstorm on Sunday, Feb. 12. Many spots in Connecticut recorded over 20 inches of snow while we had about eight inches. That storm brings Bradley Field's official snowfall total close to what we have recorded in Tolland to this date.

Granville Federated Church *American Baptist & United Church of Christ*
 Granby Road, Granville, MA 01034 -Phone (413) 357-8583

- A potluck supper will be held at 6pm in Fellowship Hall on Sat., Mar. 4. There will be an Irish theme.
- On Sunday, March 12, breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:30am.
- Confirmation Class meets Sunday, March 12 at 11:15am with the Rev. Patrick McMahon.
- The Ladies Aid is sponsoring a Church World Service 'Gift of the Heart' kit drive through April. Kit information is available in the church vestibule or by calling Carolyn Mills at 569-0384. Kits are a vital piece of CWS relief work and are especially needed this year. They include School Kits, Health Hits and Baby Kits. Kits will be assembled from donated items on Wednesday, March 15, following the regular potluck luncheon and meeting held at the church at noon. Whole kits and parts of kits will be collected at the church through March. In April, we will accept only completed kits and will announce what is needed to finish any partial kits. The CWS truck comes to the area in early May.

- Sunday - 9am Junior Choir practice. 10am - Worship Service, Sunday School to run concurrently with Worship Service. Childcare available. 11am - Coffee Hour.
- Monday - 7pm - AA Meeting
- Thursday - 7pm - Adult Choir Practice
- First Saturday - 6 pm - Potluck Supper in Fellowship Hall
- Second Sunday - 11:15am - Confirmation Class meets with Minister
- Third Sunday - 8:30-9:30am - Breakfast served in Fellowship Hall
- Third Wednesday - Noon - Ladies Aid Potluck Luncheon & Meeting. Kit assembly.
- Fourth Sunday - 11:15 am - Adult Study Program led by the Rev. Patrick McMahon

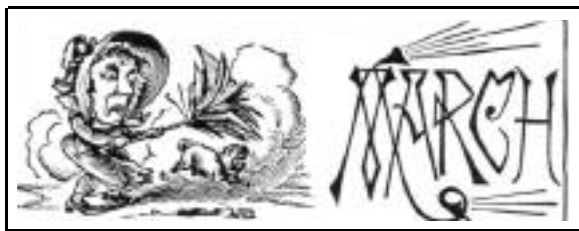
All are welcome

Town Hall Hours:

- Mon. & Tues. - 8:00am to 4:00pm
- Wed. from 8:00am to 12pm

Assessor Clerk's hours : Monday 10am-4pm

Town Clerk hours: Monday 1 - 4pm



MARCH 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. 3:00pm - 8:30pm Thurs. 11:00am - 4:00pm Sat. 10:00am -12:00pm			1 5-7:00pm DUMP	2	3	4 9 - 11:00 am DUMP
5 3:00 - 5:00 pm DUMP	6 6:00pm Selectmen	7	8 5-7:00pm DUMP	9	10	11 9 - 11:00 am DUMP
12 3:00 - 5:00 pm DUMP	13	14	15 5-7:00pm DUMP	16	17 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY	18 9 - 11:00 am DUMP
19 3:00 - 5:00 pm DUMP	20 6:00pm Selectmen . 7:00pm PlanningBoard	21	22 5-7:00pm DUMP	23	24	25 9 - 11:00 am DUMP
26 3:00 - 5:00 pm DUMP	27	28	29 5-7:00pm DUMP	30	31	

THE TOLLAND TATTLER is a monthly newsletter and a non-profit, volunteer publication by the Board of Selectmen of Tolland, Massachusetts. It is distributed free to residents. The Tolland Tattler solicits news and calendar items from town boards and community groups, and will try to print all the news received.

Policy regarding copy submitted for the "Letters to the Editor" column:

The Tolland Tattler is the official publication of the Town of Tolland and is sponsored by the Tolland Board of Selectmen. It receives additional funding from various groups including the Council on Aging. The Board of Selectmen maintains the right to review letters submitted to the 'Letters to the Editor' column for content. Letters that are in bad taste, derogatory or present a potential legal problem will not be printed.

DEADLINE: Copy and calendar events must be received by the 20th of each month. Items can be mailed to the Town Hall, dropped off at the Town Hall or by E-Mail to: jeanwillow@crocker.com

ADVERTISING RATES AND SIZES:

Prices :1/4 page - \$5.00 • 1/2 page - \$10.00 • full page \$20.00

Mechanical specifications can be obtained by contacting:

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